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Title: Need to provide financial support to Solar Pump programme in North Eastern States.

SHRI GAURAV GOGOI (KALIABOR): In December 2014 the Indian Government launched a credit-linked back ended capital subsidy scheme (through NABARD) to be implemented for promotion of installation of solar pumpsets. The scheme involves provision of loans by commercial Banks, RRBs, State and District Central Cooperative Banks, SCARDBs and NABARD (under direct lending) for installation of Solar PV Pumping systems for the purpose of irrigation with provision of capital subsidy.

Given the vulnerabilities of the Northeast India, I would like to place the following demands for better implementation of the Solar Pump Program:-

Special Category Region for Northeast India- Northeast India has lower solar irradiance compared to the rest of the country. therefore, more effort is needed to promote solar power usage. Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has already considered Northeast India as special category states in the Solar Rooftop Program under NABARD Scheme.

Rise in Subsidy allocation- As the scheme targets small and marginal farmers in Northeast India the demand for solar pump must be encouraged. Currently the subsidy for the Solar Pump scheme is 30%-35% which is too low. the Solar Rooftop Program has a subsidy component of 70%. The low subsidy and the additional cost of solar pump and interest on loan amount makes the Solar Pump program unviable in its current design.

It is strongly recommended to give special support to Northeast India to ensure that the scheme reach out to the small and marginal farmers in a sustainable manner.